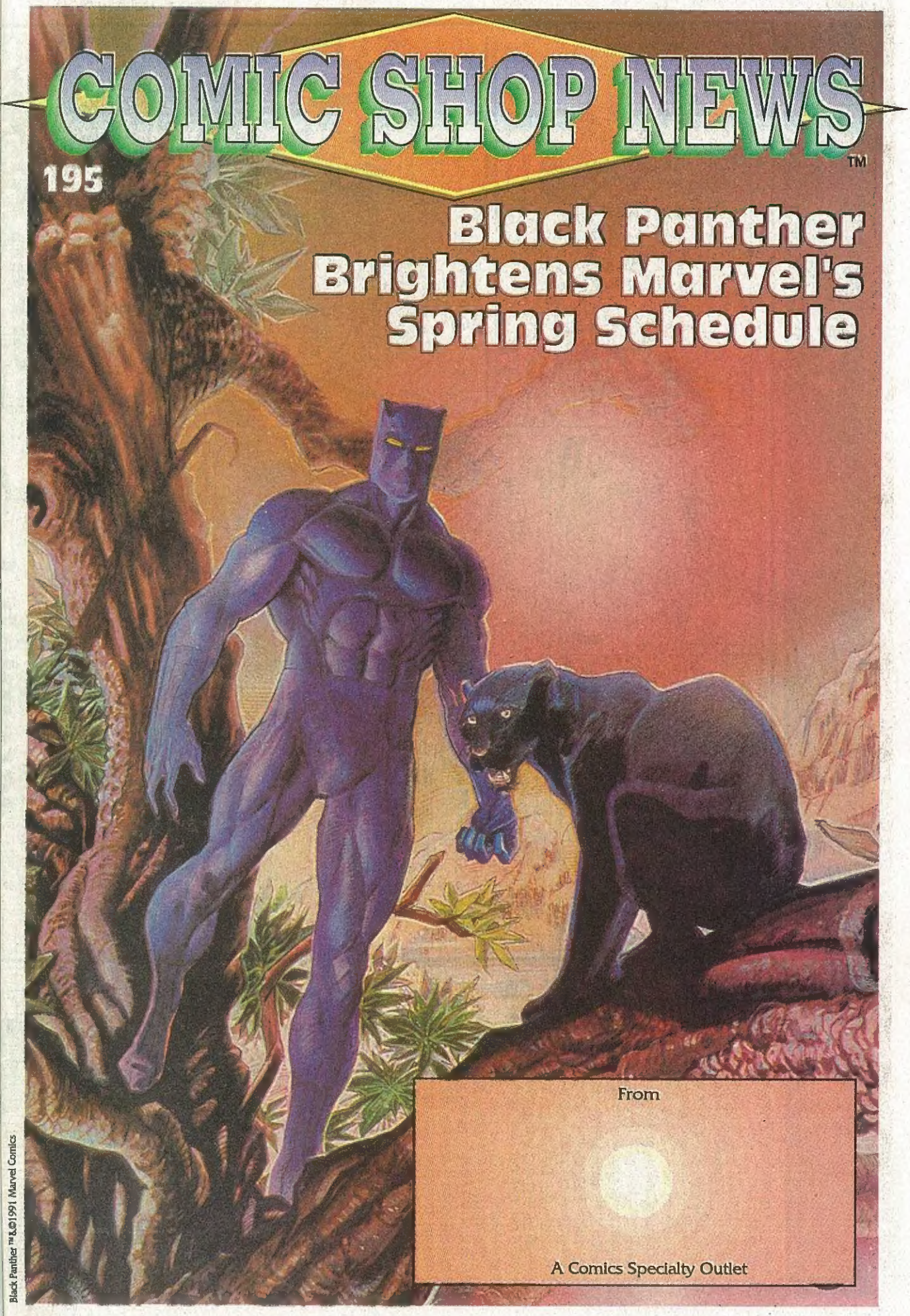


Black Panther ™ & © 1991 Marvel Comics

Black Panther Stalks His Prey At Last!

The Black Panther: Panther's Prey limited series that ***CSN*** told you about last fall is ready for release at last, after a half-year delay. The four-issue bookshelf-format series still has the same specs we told you about the first time around: it's a story that features Black Panther's war on drugs and big-city corruption in his own homeland of Wakanda--but the war soon takes him to Washington DC and New York City in stalk of the source of the corruption. It's still written by Don McGregor, author of the epic-length "Panther's Quest" series in ***Marvel Comics Presents*** a couple of years ago, and it's still drawn by Dwayne Turner, whose artwork is reproduced from his original pencil drawings to give the book a unique look. Finally, colorist Steve Mattson is still bringing his talent to play on this title, carefully working with the colors to bring ***Panther's Prey*** to life without overpowering the delicate pencil work.

So what's *different* about ***Panther's Prey***? Well, it'll be reaching comic shops on March 7th, which makes it a '91 title, not a '90 title, and it'll carry a $4.95 cover price. Otherwise, it's the same series that Marvel is counting on to restore the Panther to a more high-profile position in the Marvel Universe.

by WAYNE LEE

Nexus Is a Real Holy Terror

Throughout his career, Nexus has carried out his duty of bringing some of the universe's most vile criminals to justice--but never has he had to carry out a death sentence on a god. That's exactly the situation Nexus finds himself faced with in ***Nexus: Liberator,*** a two-part prestige-format limited series debuting this June.

The object of Nexus' wrath is Gigo, a tyrant who is considered a god by the people of the planet Uyl. These people consider the Great Gigo to be a direct descendant of the Great Almighty. Since he has the power of life and death, they just may be right...but the problem is, he's been using that power of death far too liberally lately, and it seems that he intends to carry out genocide against his people.

Nexus: Liberator shows what happens to the man who kills a god. It also reveals what happens to a planet whose inhabitants witness their god's destruction--and what part Nexus will play in that planet's future.

Nexus: Liberator is written by Stefan Petrucha, the author whose debut series, ***Squalor,*** received widespread critical acclaim when it debuted in 1989.; this series marks the first time Petrucha has written the adventures of ***Nexus.*** John Calimee, former artist of ***Alpha Flight***, will pencil the series, while original ***Nexus*** inker John Nyberg returns to ink the book.

Nexus Liberator #1, the first issue of a two-issue limited series, will feature a cover by Whilce Portacio and Les Dorscheid; the 48-page $4.95 comic is scheduled for release on June 13th.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Nexus ™ &©1991 First Comics

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

195 3 • 20 • 91

Storm On the Horizon

Will Eisner is one of the last great comics creators from the Golden Age still producing vital new works today--but it's not merely his stature in the field that makes any new work from Eisner such an event. Instead, it's the man's incredible talent, a talent that is entering its sixth decade as a vital part of the comics medium, that makes any new work from him so noteworthy. And in 1990, for the first time in two years, fans will have an opportunity to enjoy a new Eisner work--and not a minor work, but a major work that is truly a graphic novel.

To the Heart of the Storm, Eisner's latest work, is a massive 208-page autobiographical graphic novel that really deserves the name graphic *novel.* In its pages, a young man is on a troop train, on his way to basic training shortly after America's entry into World War II. As he gazes through the window at the scenery passing by, he memories of earlier years are triggered--and through those memories, readers see how this young man has come to this point in his life. The story presents his early years in the Bronx and Brooklyn, moving from flat to flat as the family's downturned finances dictate. It shows the anti-Semitism he encounters. It shows the stories, told by his parents, of their early years in widely divergent backgrounds. And it shows how all of these experiences have led him to the military experience about to change his life forever..

To the Heart of the Storm, a poignant and timeless work from one of the field's greatest storytelling talents, will be released in three editions. The standard paperback edition will be priced at $14.95; the standard hardcover edition will be priced at $24.95. For the fan who wants a truly collectible edition of this truly desirable work, though, there will also be a 900-copy signed and numbered limited edition, tentatively priced at $39.95 (price may vary depending upon demand for the book; check with your local comic shop for more information).

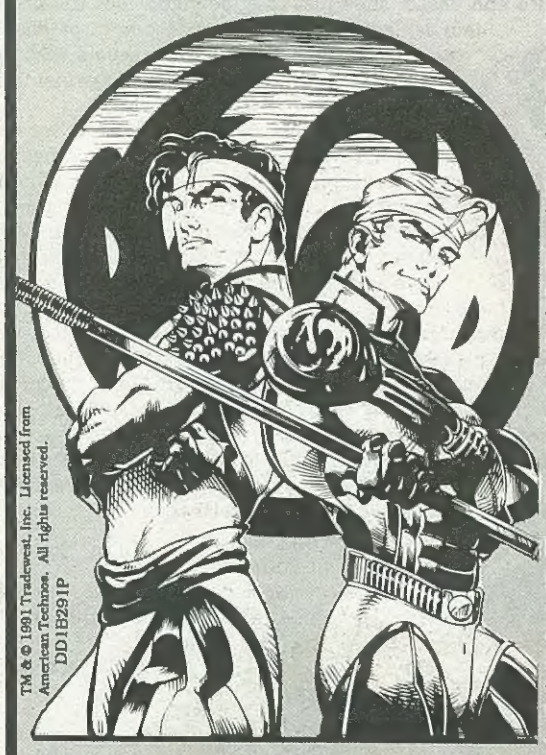
To the Heart of the Storm is slated for May release.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

AAAAH! BEAT IT, KELLY... THIS IS MY ROUTE TOO!
HEY, HEY, HEY... Y'LITTLE WOP BASTARD... DON'T MUSCLE ME!
SHIT ON YOU, IRISH!
NATION: WALKER CHARGED
WALK CHARGE
JOURNAL

To The Heart of the Storm ™ & 1991 Will Eisner

NEWS BRIEFS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ICE LASSOS WESTERN HERO

Ever wanted to play that sheriff who has to face down despicable villains in the street? Or save a train from being robbed by Jesse James? Or just wear spurs? Well, ICE is doing what they can to help. This March Ice is releasing ***Western Hero***, the latest in their series of role-playing games. ***Western Hero*** will use the same system that ICE uses in their ***Champions*** role playing system, sure to make it popular with gamers everywhere. This expansion will provide players with the opportunity to confront the western scum that has plagued Saturday afternoon for years! ***Western Hero*** can be yours for only $20; so don't miss out!

DC RINGS IN SPRING

DC's entry into the field of opera-inspired comics, ***The Ring*** by **Roy Thomas** and **Gil Kane,** was one of the surprise hits of 1989-90, outselling virtually every other opera-inspired comic published by any company. Each issue sold out quickly and priced climbed as readers sought out this heroic fantasy based on **Wagner**'s opera cycle The *Ring of the Niebelung*. This spring, DC will give fans an opportunity to enjoy the entire storyline without having to dig through backstock comic boxes for hard-to-find issues: ***The Ring*** is being issued in trade paperback on April 25th. The 200-page volume will reprint all four issues of the limited series; it will also contain a text piece by **Brian Kellow**, managing editor of ***Opera News***, on the history of the Ring Cycle. The deluxe package is priced at $19.95--almost exactly the same price as the original four issues, and certainly less than the back-issue price of these books today!

The Ring ™ & ©1991 DC Comics

MARVEL'S HUNTING BIG GAME...

...Big game-tie-in comics, that is. In May, Marvel invades the Nintendo-comic market with ***Double Dragon***, a six-issue limited series based on the popular game. As **Skip Dietz** put it, "You've seen Nintendo comics before, but you haven't seen them done right until you've seen one done by Marvel."

Double Dragon is the story of Billy and Jimmy Lee, fraternal twins who have inherited the ancient mystical Dragon force which grants them enormous martial prowess. The exploits take place in the cyberpunkish future city of Oligopolis, where the brothers have to face numerous mutated super-villains. With a combination of cyberpunk, mutant action, and martial arts, how can it miss?...

Double Dragon will be written by **Dwayne McDuffie,** whose ***Deathlok*** was such a hit last year that it has led to the addition of a monthly ***Deathlok*** series beginning in May. The artwork is provided by penciller **Larry Stroman** (known for his work on ***Alien Legion*** and soon to be the regular artist on ***X-Factor***) and inker **Brad Vancata**.

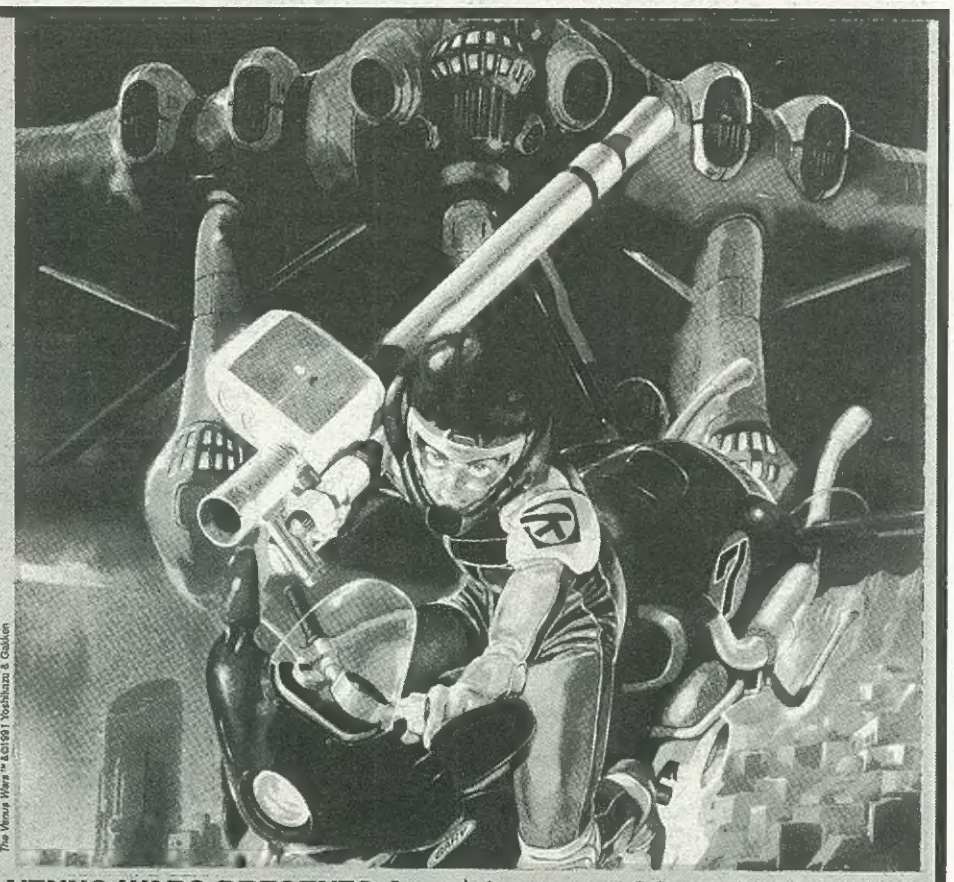
Marvel has another reason to suspect that ***Double Dragon*** is going to be a major hit this year: there's talk of a prime-time ***Double Dragon*** live action television show, which would make interest in the comic skyrocket. Right now, ***Double Dragon*** is listed as a six-issue limited series--but Marvel isn't ruling out the possibility of more limited series or an ongoing series if reader response is as strong as Marvel suspects it will be. ***Double Dragon #1***, a $1 comic, is scheduled for May 23rd release.

MALIBU ABOUT TO DELIVER THE KILLING STROKE

Horror fans rejoice! Malibu comics is getting ready to publish an all new british horror anthology titled ***Killing Stroke***. The book is designed to present the best of modern British horror shorts by some of the top names in the business. The editor for the ***Killing Stroke*** is **Gary Crutchly**, who promises great things in the future, and starts by delivering a first issue painted cover by ace artist **Mark Buckingham**! The exact line up for the first issue has yet to be set. ***The Killing Stroke*** is set to debut this summer, so keep your eyes on ***CSN*** for details!

REED NO MORE; NOW IT'S NAMOR!...

Namor and Sue Storm, an item? Not in this Marvel reality--but in the realms of ***What If?***, it's certainly possible. ***What If? #27*** shows fans what would have happened if the Sub-Mariner had joined the Fantastic Four--and the way writer **Ron Marz** sees it, one thing that definitely would have happened is a Sue-Namor romance. **Gavin Curtis** is the artist for this issue of ***What If?***; look for it on May 23rd.


The Venus Wars ™ &©1991 Yoshikazi & Gakken

VENUS WARS PRESENTS A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD WAR

The Venus Wars, Dark Horse's latest entry into the manga-translation market, is hard to categorize. It's a science fiction story, but it isn't sf in the tradition of ***Outlanders***, ***Xenon***, or even ***2001 Nights***. It's a heroic adventure, but it isn't at all like ***Grey*** or ***Appleseed***. And it's a high-tech gadget-packed adventure, but it isn't at all like any of the Japanese mecha-packed adventures that fans have enjoyed for years.

So what *is* ***The Venus Wars***? It's the story of a struggle for control of the planet Venus--by the two colonies that occupy the planet. In ***The Venus Wars***, a collision with an ice asteroid has transformed Venus into a habitable world. Eighty years after the collision, the colony of Ishtar intends to control the entire planet by using its military might--and its new supertank, the Octopus--the destroy the colonists of the resource-laden Aphrodia. Aphrodia responds with its own secret weapon, the Hound--a high-tech antitank battlecycle that might turn the tide of the war. The story focuses on Ken Falkirk, a motorcycle daredevil who may be Aphrodia's most powerful secret weapon.

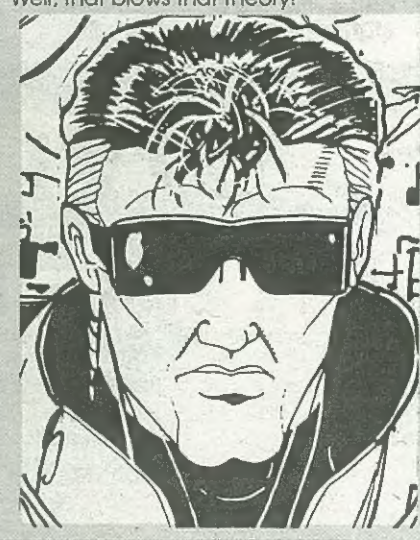
The Venus Wars is written and drawn by **Yoshikazu Yasuhiko**. While American fans may not recognize Yasuhiko's name, they'll certainly recognize the name of his most famous creation, ***Mobile Suit Gundam***. Yasuhiko also worked on the motion pictures ***Crusher Joe*** and ***Arion***. The English translation of ***Venus Wars*** is prepared by Studio Proteus' **Alan Gleason** and **Toren Smith**. ***Venus Wars #1***, a $2.25 comic book, is scheduled for April 1991 release.

BEAUTIFUL NEWS FOR BEAUTIFUL STORIES FANS

A few months ago, Piranha Press announced its plans to upgrade **Dave Louapre** and **Dan Sweetman**'s ***Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children*** from a $2.50 monthly format to a higher-ticket prestige-format trade paperback. While fans were pleased at the chance to see more Louapre and Sweetman absurdism, there was more than a little concern about the higher pricetag.

Someone at DC was listening to those concerns, it appears. **Andrew Helfer**, Group Editor in charge of Experimental Projects for DC, says that ***Beautiful Stories*** will return to its 32-page $2.50-per-issue monthly format two months after the release of the first all-new prestige format issue.

"Mailing costs are up, printing costs are up, separation costs...ah, whaddya gonna do?" Helfer said. "A hot dog used to cost a dime. A movie was a quarter--and back then, you got two features, a cartoon, a serial, and a newsreel! Hell, I remember when comic books were a nickel!" When informed that, with one exception, comic books never cost a nickel, Helfer said, "Well, that blows that theory!"


Thrill Kill ™ &©1991 Mark Wadrey

THE THRILL ISN'T GONE

Thrill Kill, the hero who appeared in the pages of the first four ***Caliber Presents***, is returning in his own limited series this summer. Since the ***Caliber Presents*** issues featuring his first appearance are so hard to find nowadays, Caliber is collecting those stories in a one-shot entitled ***Thrill Kill: The Oddsmaker***. In ***The Oddsmaker***, Tyrelius Belizonz, also known as Thrill Kill, find himself trapped on a planetentiary that is home to some of the most-dangerous prisoners known to society--and Thrill Kill put most of them there! **Mark Winfrey** is the writer-artist of these Thrill Kill adventures as well as the upcoming Thrill Kill miniseries that will explore the hero's early years. ***Thrill Kill: The Oddsmaker***, an April release, is priced at $2.50.

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ParaGraphics
Printing
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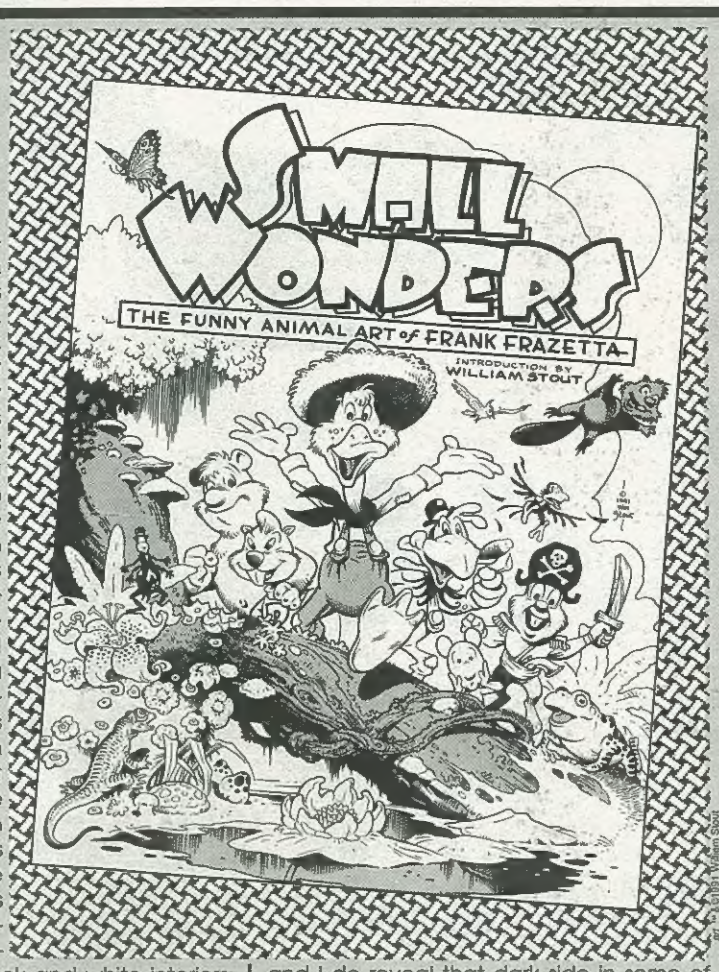
NEWSBRIEFS

SMALL WONDERS A BIG WONDER TO FRAZETTA FANS



Frank Frazetta is internationally known for his lush paintings of exotic women, barbaric heroes, and alien vistas–but you won't find any of that in the pages of Frank Frazetta's ***Small Wonders,*** a new series from Kitchen Sink. In the early 1950's, when he was known as **Fritz Frazetta,** he turned out a plethora of funny-animal comics stories for a variety of publications. Many fans have never seen those stories--but they'll be able to see them all when Kitchen Sink unveils its two volume ***Small Wonders*** series this May. The first 80-page graphic album will feature black and white interiors; the second volume, slated for late 1991 release, will also include an eight-page color section as well.

"I'm just a straight, ordinary guy. I truly wish the world was full of sweetness, flowers, and happiness," Frazetta said. "But it's not, and I do reveal that dark side in some of my work. I am known for my violent stuff.

"But the funny stuff is the *real* me," Frazetta concluded.

Small Wonders, a $9.95 trade paperback, is slated for May release.

ROBIN COMES TO ROOST IN BARGAIN TRADE PAPERBACK

Robin has been one of the biggest hits of 1990 (and early 1991) for DC Comics–and in spite of three printings of the first issue, fans are already finding that it's difficult to find anywhere but in comics backstock boxes. With demand running so high for the comic, DC is releasing a special ***New Robin Trade Paperback*** edition this May that just *may* be the best bargain in comics today--it will feature almost 180 pages of story and art for the incredible price of $4.95--less than 60% of the cover price of the original comics it reprints! ***The New Robin Trade Paperback*** will reprint the entire five-issue limited series by **Chuck Dixon** and **Tom Lyle**--but that's not all. It will also include ***Batman #455-457*** by **Marv Wolfman, Jim Aparo,** and **Mike DeCarlo,** containing the Scarecrow story that first presented to the world Tim Drake as Robin. The book will also feature several extras, including the schematic diagram of Robin's costume (already seen here by all you who have been reading ***CSN*** for a while), a new introduction, and a new cover by **Brian Bolland.** ***The New Robin Trade Paperback*** is slated for May 2nd release.

A MIRACULOUS ENDING

Mister Miracle#28 is the final issue of the ***Mister Miracle*** series--but is it the finale for Mister Miracle as well? In this issue, Scott Free has to decide whether to live a normal life on Earth, a career as a superhero escape artist, or godhood on New Genesis. Barba has a serious choice to make as well: her mother wants Barda to take her place on Apokolips. Find out what choices each makes in ***Mister Miracle #28,*** written by **Doug Moench** and pencilled by **Joe Phillips;** look for it in comic shops on April 18th.

Reid Fleming ™ & © 1991 David Boswell

I AM THE MILKMAN, GOO GOO GA JOOB...

David Boswell's ***Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman*** has been an underground hero ever since he debuted;Fleming a no-holds-barred, take-no-prisoners kind of guy who has a real attitude and is glad to let anyone know about it. Eclipse Comics has continually reprinted the ***Reid Fleming*** issues, but the demand for the stories continues as fans wear out their copies or loan them to friends who then join them on the Reid Fleming milkwagon. Now Eclipse is making it possible for ***Reid Fleming*** fans to have a permanent, durable edition of this quirky comic book. ***Rogues To Riches*** collects the entire 176-page Reid Fleming saga in one volume available in both trade paperback ($12.95) and hardcover ($32.95). For those who want the ultimate in collectibility, there's even a signed limited edition hardcover with a Boswell-illustrated tip-in-plate (talk to the folks at your local comic book shop about price and availability on this one–and tell 'em that ***CSN*** sent you, okay?...).

She sings...
She fights...
She's dynamite!
She's Marvel's super-feline...
Nightcat™
PREMIERE ISSUE
Jim SALICRUP
Barry DUTTER
Stan LEE
Denys COWAN
Jimmy PALMIOTTI
SHIPS STRAIGHT TO YOU ON MARCH 19
Marvel Comics and LMR/RCA Records present the new singing sensation— NIGHTCAT!
Catch the pulsating sounds of Nightcat on LMR/RCA Records. The 12-inch single and the cassette single "#1 House Rule" will be available this month. The full-length stunning debut album, "NIGHTCAT," will be available in April on cassette and compact disc.
NIGHTCAT—This fearsome feline means business!
MARVEL COMICS
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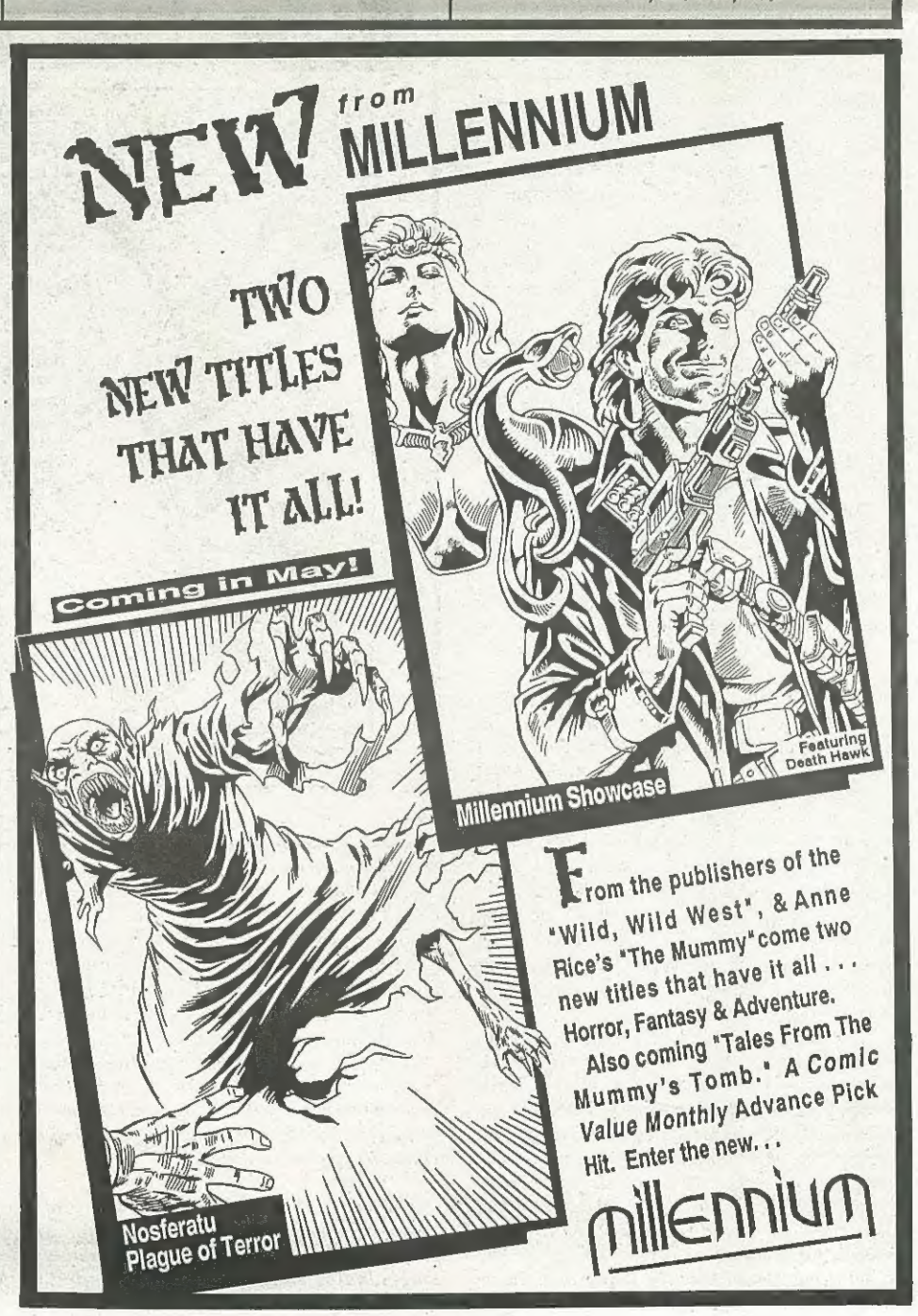
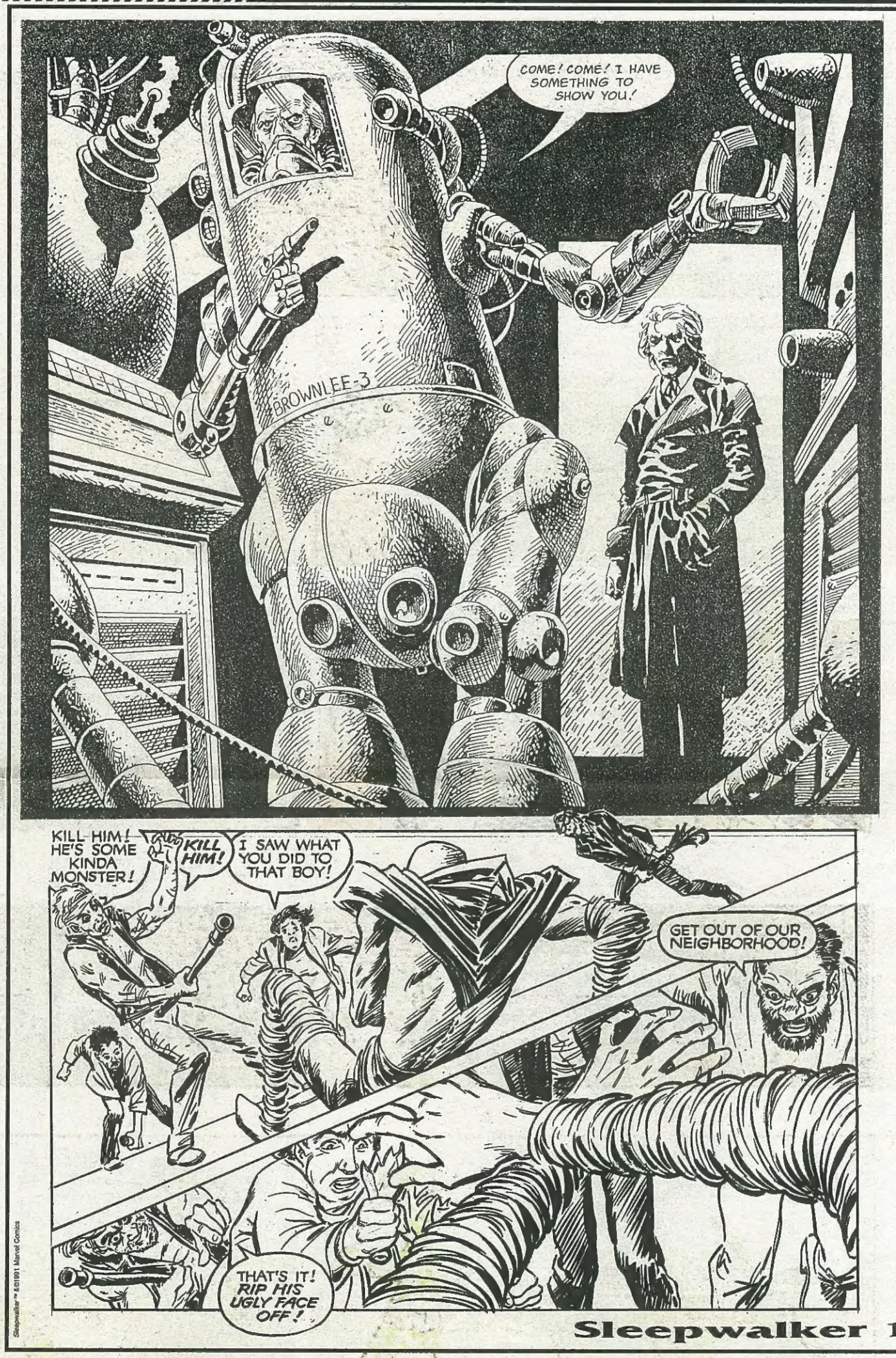

NEW from MILLENNIUM
TWO NEW TITLES THAT HAVE IT ALL!
Coming in May!
Featuring Death Hawk
Millennium Showcase
Nosferatu Plague of Terror
From the publishers of the "Wild, Wild West", & Anne Rice's "The Mummy" come two new titles that have it all . . . Horror, Fantasy & Adventure.
Also coming "Tales From The Mummy's Tomb." A Comic Value Monthly Advance Pick Hit. Enter the new. . .
millennium

CSN REVIEWS

Give & Take
by Cliff Biggers & Brett Brooks

Each month, Cliff Biggers (in plain type) and *Brett Brooks (in italic type)* take a look at a few choice comics coming out in the next month. Publihsers interested in having their books considered for review in these pages should send copies to ***CSN Give and Take,*** 2339 Milstead Circle, Marietta GA 30066; we'd prefer receiving copies of the books at least thirty days before they're supposed to reach the comic shops. Now that the business end of this job is finished, let's get on with the commentary!


COME! COME! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.
BROWNLEE-3
KILL HIM! HE'S SOME KINDA MONSTER!
KILL HIM!
I SAW WHAT YOU DID TO THAT BOY!
GET OUT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
THAT'S IT! RIP HIS UGLY FACE OFF!
Sleepwalker™ & ©1991 Marvel Comics

The Spider 1

Sleepwalker 1

Tim Truman is hard to pin down; just when you think you know what to expect from him, he turns in a surprising new direction. He followed up his long-running ***Scout*** series with the brilliant ***Wilderness*** series, a historical saga about Simon Girty--and while both had an American Indian element, that was virtually the only similarity. After ***Wilderness,*** Truman's next major project was the innovative revamping of ***Hawkworld*** for DC--both a radical departure from Truman's prior work and a radical departure from the prior interpretations of Hawkman and his home planet.

When I heard that Truman was bringing the pulp hero ***The Spider*** back to comics in a prestige-format miniseries for Eclipse, I knew that what I would find in its pages wouldn't be the Spider as I remembered him. And I was right, at least on the surface--but the real surprise is that Truman has created a work that is essentially a grand pulp in the heroic tradition.

As a pulp hero, The Spider is The Shadow with an attitude. Truman's emphasis is on that attitude, giving the story a 1930's **film noir** approach that suits the material well. Richard Wentworth, the Spider's other identity, almost fades into obscurity in the shadow of the grim hero who wields death with striking efficiency. But the Spider isn't a Punisher-like "grim-'n'-gritty" hero; he's a hero in the grand tradition--except that he lacks that comic-bookish aversion to killing. He's a costumed hero with a mysterious background, but once you get past that, he has the same moral values as a hero in a novel by Raymond Chandler, Dashiell Hammett, or James Cain. It's that classic "good man in a bad situation" motif that pervades ***The Spider*** with such a pulpish atmosphere, with such satisfying results.

Boy, you got that one right! This is a grand pulp-adventure. There is enough mystery and intrigue to keep you on the edge of your seat for the entire run of the story. I love the way that Truman has decided to just throw us into the middle of the tale and then reveal the mysteries behind the character as the story progresses.

The first page describes ***The Spider*** as "The 1990's...according to the 1930's..." That sums up the approach Truman has taken in this series. Fans of ***Doc Savage*** and ***Shadow*** pulp adventures will recognize the story structure here: the mysterious elements, the evil villain, the exotic accomplice, the fascinating gadgetry--Truman has taken the essence of a pulp adventure, added the flavor of the 1990's, and given the reader the concentrated blend. Even the first issue's cliffhanger ending. a standard 1930's gimmick, has a stark modern edge to it.

Truman's dark, moody artwork is very much at home in this tale. In ***Hawkworld,*** his work seemed particularly strong in the scenes set in the world below, the world of shadows and harshness. Here, that world is the dominant one, and it makes the book a visual delight for Truman fans. As always, Alcatena's inks are superlative; having read the first issue in black-and-white photocopies, I can admire the precision of Alcatena's line control without the pleasant distraction of color--and **admire** is the key word. Anyone with any appreciation of the underrated art of inking will be fascinated with Alcatena's finesse.

Truman's approach to the Spider is very refreshing (isn't that almost redundant for this guy?), and yet never far from the original source material. I kept finding myself looking at the costumes these characters were wearing and saying "yep, that looks like a Truman design" and "boy, does that ever look straight out of those old pulps" and be talking about the same illustration. Truman is one of the few writer/artists working today that seems to be able to get a handle on how the entire pulp genre should be handled.

Not since the ***Doc Savage*** miniseries has a comic book so well captured the feel of the pulps without slavishly imitating their style and setting as well. ***The Spider*** is one of the most enjoyably straightforward action-adventure comics I've read in years--yet it remains much more than a "back-to-the-basics" comic.

My only hope after reading **The Spider** *is that somehow, Truman is able to get his hands on* **Doc Savage.** *Yeah, I liked the DC series--but just the thought of Truman getting a hold of the character gets me excited!*

Do you get tired while reading? Well, Marvel comics is about to publish the book for you! Sleepwallker is the creation of Bob Budianski, a long-standing writer/editor at Marvel, and it's sure to be a success. Budianski has decided to avoid many of the traditional genres of comics and opt for a super-hero who's a ***little*** *different...*

Rick Sheridan is your average straight A non-geek high school student with a fabulous girl friend and the respect and admiration of his family, when suddenly his life gets strange. It seems that Rick is fighting crime in his sleep--kinda. Rick is the possessor of a strange artifact that allows an alien entity known only as the Sleepwalker to come through his mind to Earth to fight evil and injustice. If this sounds vaguely reminiscent of the ***Ghost Rider,*** *don't be surprised, budianski worked on the flaming motorcycle hero for a number of years before the current incarnation of the character; but at the same time, don't think you've already read this book because it sounds a little like the* ***Ghost Rider,*** *believe me, the two books are worlds apart.*

When I first read about Sleepwalker, I thought "Sandman goes superhero." In spite of the fact that there's a superficial similarity, though, the book is much more superhero than Sandman-pastiche--if anything, it owes a great deal to those classic Dr. Strange-vs.-Nightmare confrontations that Steve Ditko so loved to present. The key difference here, though, is that although ***Sleepwalker*** is set in the dream world, it doesn't have a mystical feel to it--if anything, it's almost a science-fiction approach. More than once, I could see in Rick Sheridan a hint of Kevin McCarthy's character in the classic Don Siegel ***Invasion of the Body Snatchers***--the man who so wanted to sleep but couldn't, be-

COMICS PAGE

CREATED BY BOB KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THE RIDDLER PREPARES HIS SECRET HEADQUARTERS...
3/10/91
AND TEST DRIVES HIS RIDDLEMOBILE!
THE RIDDLER STRIKES! THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON...
MY GOD! MUNI, SEE THAT THIS IS SENT TO BATMAN IMMEDIATELY, VIA THE SECURE FAX.
"WHEN DVORAK IS WRIT LARGE, PILLAGE IS SPELLED WITH A 'Y'."
HERE. A PETTY THIEF NAMED EDWARD NIGMA CALLED HIMSELF THE RIDDLER. SENT RIDDLES TO THE POLICE, DETAILING HIS NEXT CRIME...!
"THEY WOULD SOLVE THE RIDDLES AND HE WAS ALWAYS CAPTURED."
-3/10
WHAT A MAROON!
MANY CRIMINALS YEARN TO BE CAPTURED ...BUT FEW ARE SO EFFICIENT AT IT!
STILL, HE COULD BE DANGEROUS...
I'D BETTER NAB HIM QUICKLY, BEFORE HE HARMS SOMEONE ELSE... OR HIMSELF!
AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH THESE LAST MONTHS, CAPTURING THIS POOR BOZO WOULD ALMOST BE A VACATION!
I HOPE SO...
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
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TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES

MICHAELANGELO
PAUL LUNDGARD
HINES CREEK, ALBERTA
AGE 10
RAPHAEL
JAMIE McLELLAN
JAPAN
AGE 6
SPLINTER
ERIC LÉGARÉ
OTTOWA, ONTARIO
AGE 11
LEONARDO
LYLE MURPHY
COVENTRY, CT
AGE 10
TURTLES FAN ART
PLEASE SEND YOUR FAN ART C/O THIS NEWSPAPER
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3-10

CSN PREVIEWS

cause he didn't know what would happen once he closed his eyes. It's an appeal to the paranoid in all of us, wrapped up in a superhero package.

*The art on the book is by ex-***New Mutants** *artist Brett Blevins (I like this guys name!), and his stuff has never looked better. I have always enjoyed Blevins work, and y'know, I still do enjoy it! Blevins has the ability to render convincing looking characters in a "cartoony" style without getting them so carried away that they don't look natural; Blevins is also the only "gritty cartoony" artist on the market. That's one of the things that works so well about* **Sleepwalker,** *Blevins' ability to render the figures in such a way that they do seem frightening at first, but not so bad that you never are quite sure who the good-guys or bad-guys are.*

Blevins is a very clean-line artist; he doesn't try to follow the trend of embellishment-to-the-extreme in his artwork, and every line serves a purpose. His work is in the same school as Frank Cirocco's and Paul Smith's--and that's a pretty high-ranking school!...

All in all, **Sleepwalker** *is an entertaining little book that is bound to garnish several fans out there. I mean, I liked it, and I honestly wasn't expecting to. I think that there are enough unique qualities in this book to make* **Sleepwalker** *a surprise hit this year. Oh, and the cute little lead in to issue #2's villain was amusing as well.*

I've always had a compulsive interest in post-holocaust tales, so I was intrigued when I first heard about Adventure Comics' English-language edition of ***Jeremiah,*** the first story in Hermann's post-apocalyptic series. I was also intrigued by the lavish praise Hermann's work had received from talents like Dave Gibbons and Joe Kubert.

While it was the post-apocalypse angle that hooked me to begin with, it was the powerful visual storytelling flow of ***Jeremiah*** that held my interest. Hermann's vision of a post-apocalyptic future is almost understated; in fact, with the exception of a strikingly wordless opening page, Jeremiah could be mistaken for a Western series. That doesn't mean that the story is flawed, though; Hermann's story of a young boy's quest of vengeance against the men who destroyed his village is an archetypal tale that fits equally well in almost any setting.

The thing that amazes me about Hermann is how much he seems like THE comic artist. Now that's not to say that he's knocking Jack Kirby aside or anything like that, but more that he just seems to be the type of artist that you always want to see on a book. Hermann's art is such that it always seems right, no matter what he's drawing. Hermann creates such a believable atmosphere to this book that it just seems like it could be anywhere or anytime.

Jeremiah's strength is Hermann's skill as a storyteller. His work is at times reminiscent of Frank Thorne, at times of Mobeius, at times of Dave Gibbons--but it's not a derivative style at all, since his work appeared at the same time as the former and predated the latter. His linework is careful and controlled; his fine-line work is meticulous, but he never over-renders the work as so many contemporary comics artists do.

I have to agree that Hermann's ability as a storyteller is remarkable. Hermann tells this tale with a grace and power that seems very cinematic--not in the sense you normally hear that word used today, but more in the sense that he creates such a natural flow to every scene that it actually seems as thought the characters are moving.

I enjoyed Jerimiah a great deal. It is the type of story that gets a great deal of attention in other markets, because of it's strong visual language. This book should do very well, and it certainly deserves to.

Fans who are attracted to ***Jeremiah*** because of the post-nuclear war aspect of the story might be a bit dismayed to find that it's such a carefully understated aspect of the series. Admirers of top-notch comic book storytelling, however, won't be at all dismayed by ***Jeremiah;*** they might be a little bit surprised, though, that Hermann isn't more well known in America than he currently is.

This seems to be the year of Robin Hood. DC comics is swearing that the release of **Green Arrow Annual #4,** *and the subsequent release of the* **Robin Hood** *film starring Kevin Costner is just a co-incidence, but whatever the case, that guy in Green is getting around a bit this year. What? You don't understand what Robin Hood has to do with* **Green Arrow Annual #4**? *Well then, let me tell you...*

Once upon a time, in the brave forests of television, there existed a show entitled "Robin of Sherwood." One of the stars of this program was a man by the name of Mark Ryan; this man is also a comic book writer. Enter now the character of Mike Grell--renowned author of the **Green Arrow** *comic book. Are you getting the point yet, or do I have to continue talking this way? Good. The story that Mark and Mike have crafted transports Dinah Lance, aka the Black Canary, back into the days of merry olde England, where she finds herself in the body of one Maid*

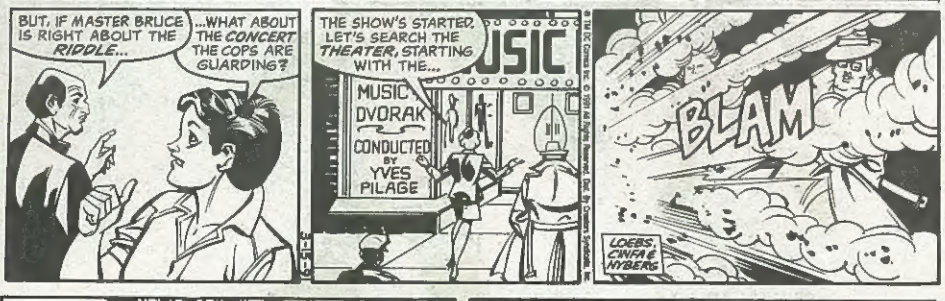
BATMAN™

by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

THIS RIDDLE... "WHEN DVORAK IS WRIT LARGE, PILLAGE IS SPELLED WITH A 'Y'."
WHAT'S OUR PROGRESS?
I'VE GOT A SHORT LIST...
MUSIC BOX
MUSIC of DVORAK CONDUCTED BY YVES PILAGE
"THE MOST PROMISING IS A CHARITY CONCERT."
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

YES, THIS FITS THE RIDDLE...!
MUSIC of DVORAK CONDUCTED BY YVES PILAGE
THIS RIDDLER, WHOEVER HE IS, MEANS TO ROB THE CHARITY CONCERT!
YES, BRUCE... A CONCERT! NATURALLY, I'VE DOUBLED THE GUARDS. THIS RIDDLER IS STYMIED!
A CONCERT. IT CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE!
DVORAK IS A TYPE OF KEYBOARD, TOO.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

ALFRED, CHECK ON ALL TRADE SHOWS FOR OFFICE MACHINES OR COMPUTERS...
AN IDEA TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE, BRUCE?
MAYBE...
THERE ARE THREE POSSIBILITIES, SIR...
DO ANY OF THEM HAVE A GIANT TYPEWRITER?
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG


BRUCE... YOU'RE TRYING TO FIND AN OFFICE TRADE SHOW WITH A GIANT TYPEWRITER?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
THERE IS SUCH A DISPLAY AT THE GOTHAM AUDITORIUM.
EXCELLENT.
BRUCE, YOU AREN'T RECOVERED YET...!
I MUST GO. THE POLICE WOULD NEVER BELIEVE ME!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

BUT, IF MASTER BRUCE IS RIGHT ABOUT THE RIDDLE...
...WHAT ABOUT THE CONCERT THE COPS ARE GUARDING?
THE SHOW'S STARTED. LET'S SEARCH THE THEATER, STARTING WITH THE...
MUSIC of DVORAK CONDUCTED BY YVES PILAGE
BLAM
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES™

FIRST, THAT SKELETON DUDE FREAKED US OUT...
...AND NOW WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE ANYMORE--
THERE'S ONLY THAT WEIRD LIGHT...!
AT LEAST IT IS SOMETHING, MY SON. LET US HEAD TOWARD IT.

I DON'T LIKE THIS, BRO.
NEITHER DO I, RAPHAEL... BUT MASTER SPLINTER SAYS HEAD TOWARD THE LIGHT...
...AND WE GO. HE'S OUR MASTER, OUR LEADER...
HE KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR US...
RIGHT!

SO...
THERE IS THE SOURCE OF LIGHT...!
A TREE?
BUT WHERE'S THE LIGHT COMING FROM?
MAYBE IT'S AN OASIS...? OR A MIRAGE...?
PERHAPS... PERHAPS IT IS A... GLOWING TREE.

AWESOME! IT IS A GLOWING TREE...!
NOTE THE TWO OPPOSING PATHS AND HOW THEY MEET IN A WELL-WORN CIRCLE AROUND THE TREE--
--LOOK!
SOMEONE'S COMING!
EVERYONE HIDE!

GREEN TIP™
EVERY DAY SHOULD BE EARTH DAY
ROLPH! ROLPH!! ROLPH!!!
RIDE A BIKE
RIDING A BIKE INSTEAD OF USING A CAR SAVES ENERGY AND REDUCES POLLUTION. IT'S ALSO A GREAT WAY TO KEEP IN SHAPE!

& REVIEWS

Marion. The whole situation seems vaguely *familiar to her...*

The art on the book is by Shea Anton Pensa, artist of the hit ***Butcher*** *mini-series. Let me tell you, if you liked Shea's work on the* ***Butcher,*** *then you'll love this book; this is the best art I've ever seen from Shea—top-notch stuff, really.*

The most serious problem I had wasn't with the artwork, but with the copy from which I was reviewing; I have a sneaking suspicion that the fine-line style Pensa used, a style that should look fine on the page, is a style almost impossible to reproduce by basic photocopying. It's a lush, detailed style that is much more meticulous than the high-contrast approach he took in ***The Butcher***—and you're right, fans are sure to love it.

The strength of this book is the story, though. Mark and Mike have created a very engaging tale that captures much of the mysticism of a time gone by and the wonderment of a fairy tale and the harsh reality of the current ***Green Arrow*** *series. As strange as the idea behind this story may sound, it really* does *work. This is an entertaining and thought provoking story of magic, love, and betrayal. I would hold it up for comparison against any other issue of* **Green Arrow** *and find that it walks away with very high marks indeed.*

One of the strongest appeals of the story is that it, in one regard, is a strong break from the normal ***Green Arrow*** story; once you get past the Robin Hood elements, though, the theme isn't that far removed from the environmental concerns that have permeated Mike Grell's ***Green Arrow*** from the very beginning. It's nice to see a fantasy story that can function with contemporary themes.

Should we mention that it's part of Green Arrow's 50th Anniversary celebration, that the character first appeared a half-century ago?

Nah, let's let 'em find out for themselves...

Oh, should we mention that DC will be doing an adaptation of the upcoming ***Robin Hood*** film that you mentioned in your opening paragraph?

Nah, let's let 'em find out for themselves...

OWW! MY HEAD! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM! LET'S SEE NOW... OH, YEAH, IT'S ALL COMIN' BACK TO ME... THE MULE... AND THOSE RIDERS... LAST NIGHT! RIDERS HEADIN' FOR...
MY VILLAGE! OH, GOD, I...
THIS IS MUCH, MY COUSIN AND MY CONSCIENCE.
A FULL-TIME JOB.
AND THIS IS RASSAN.
I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW WE INHERITED HIM, BUT HE RARELY SAYS A WORD AND HE WON'T GO AWAY.
SO, AS HE'S A BLOODY GOOD SWORDSMAN, WE KEEP HIM.
Jeremiah™ &©1991 Strip Art Features
Green Arrow™ &©1991 DC Comics

Jeremiah 1 **Green Arrow**

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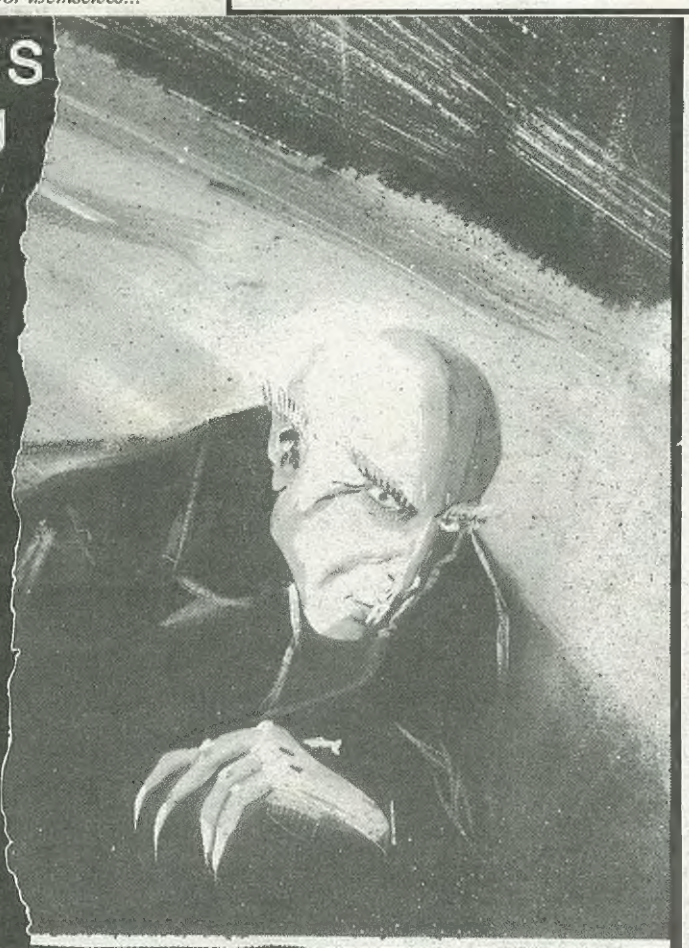

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HE'S ALREADY LOST ONE PLANET...

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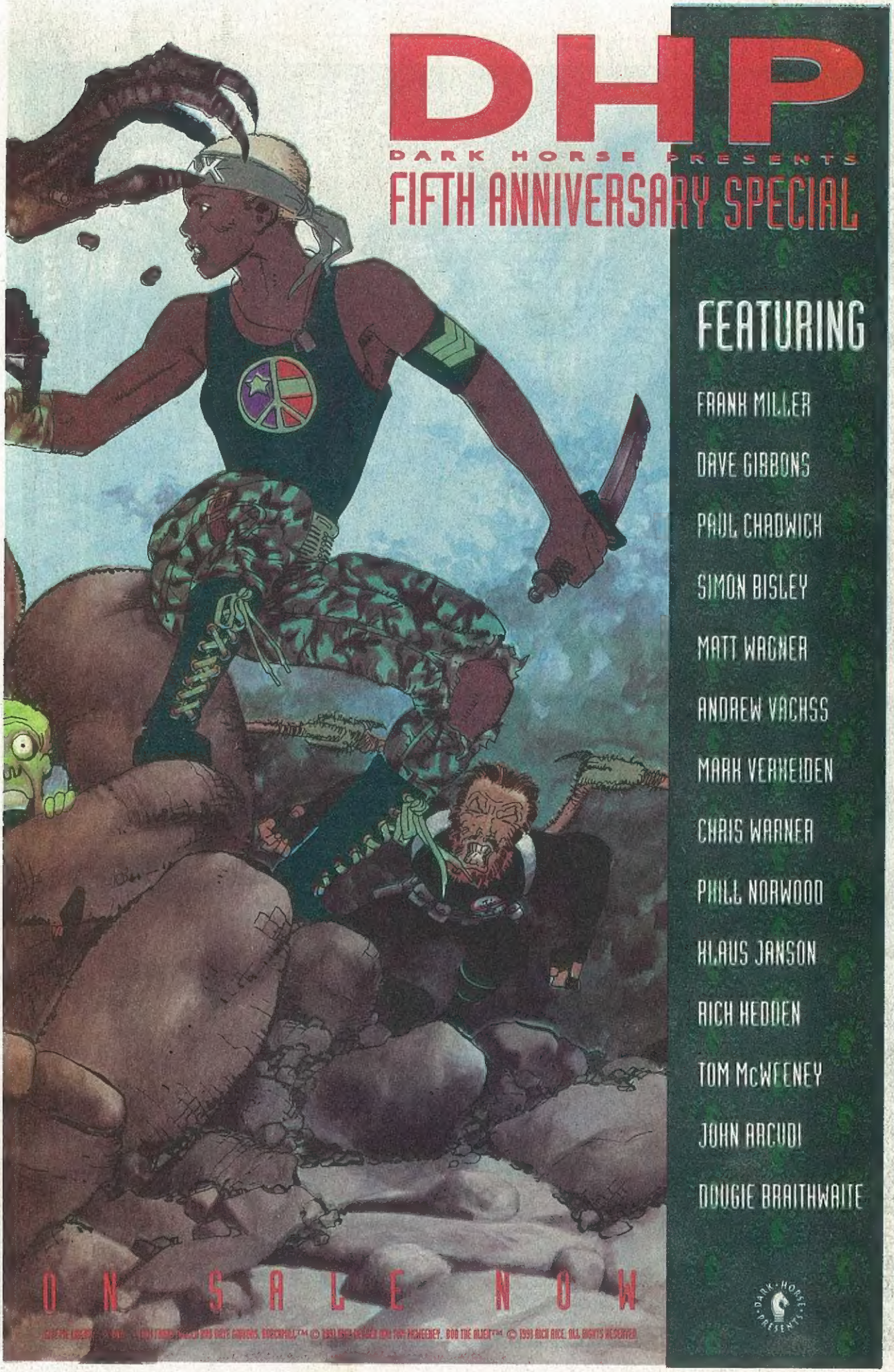
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